

# Fort Carson nabs runner-up spot in Army awards

### *Directorate of Environmental Compliance and Management*

The Mountain Post earned recognition for its site cleanup program, by taking first runner up in the Secretary of the Army Environmental Security Awards for Installation Restoration announced Jan. 25.

The winning installation for the category was Fort Riley, Kan.

Installation restoration is terminology used for the clean up of

previously contaminated sites, which can include former landfills, leaks from underground storage tanks and other areas where operations may have created a potential hazard to human health and the environment.

Fort Carson has had a regulated restoration program since 1995 and has been cleaning up sites since 1983, as a result of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act that was passed requiring various sites to restore areas impacted by their activities. The installation has a total of 170 solid waste management

units, or cleanup sites, that are permitted with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, that provides oversight over Fort Carson's restoration program.

In the last year, Fort Carson's Restoration Program expedited multiple cleanup efforts in anticipation of gaining approximately 8,500 Soldiers due to Base Realignment and Closure and Army Transformation actions. Six of the installation's restoration sites are located within the proposed BRAC construction footprint and were in various stages of the RCRA Corrective Action process when the BRAC efforts were initiated.

In order to support the BRAC mission and ensure sustainable land reuse, accelerated closeout and clean up of these sites was critical to the success of the reconstruction activities. This was achieved through a collaborative effort between operation and mission-related stakeholders, as well as the public and regulatory community and was performed within a year's time.

Stephanie Carter, DECAM Restoration Program Coordinator, credits the success of the Restoration Program to the ongoing coordination efforts between the Fort Carson Directorate of Public Works, the U.S. Army Environmental Center, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, various contractors and the Colorado

Department of Public Health and Environment to aggressively move forward on meeting the individual goals of all stakeholders and ultimately, the goals of the BRAC mission.

"We were just trying to support the effort while meeting all of our environmental and regulatory requirements," said Carter. "I'm proud that our program played such a pivotal role in facilitating part of the BRAC construction, which is really what this is all about."

"This honor demonstrates Fort Carson's commitment to lead the way in environmental sustainability by correcting the mistakes of the past and ensuring we don't repeat them in the future, added Mark Bradbury, the DECAM Environmental Compliance Team Program Operations Manager. "Our restoration program is robust and cutting edge, staffed by true professionals who are leading the way for other installations to follow."

During fiscal year 2006, unrestricted use at four of the six sites was achieved, which in turn provided full access for construction activities without concern or regard to residual contamination or any restrictions on land use and ultimately did not impact construction schedules. Since FY06, the remaining sites have gone through the cleanup process as well, to facilitate timely construction.



Fort Carson courtesy photo

*Excavation of impacted soil at a restoration site being cleaned up prior to Base Realignment and Closure construction activities.*